



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **MORE DEAD BIRDS INCREASE COUNTY'S WEST NILE VIRUS TOTAL** ***Officials Report First Positive West Nile Case in County's "Test Flock"***

County Environmental Health officials announced today that twelve more dead birds tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV) in San Diego County, bringing the County's total to 57 birds. Also, for the first time, a chicken that is part of Vector Control's sentinel flock, located in the Sorrento Valley area, tested positive for WNV. The County maintains four "test flocks" near key mosquito breeding sites to monitor for WNV.

County officials also reported that two batches of mosquitoes collected from traps in the Oceanside and Mission Valley areas tested positive for WNV. Due to the new findings and the recently reported first human case of WNV in San Diego County, Vector Control is increasing its efforts.

"Our County Vector Control staff has increased surveillance of areas where the virus has been detected to search out and treat any newly discovered and known mosquito breeding sites. We are also continuing to treat inaccessible sites by helicopter," said Gary Erbeck, director of the Department of Environmental Health.

As part of the County's comprehensive mosquito-borne disease surveillance program, the County monitors mosquito populations and virus levels by:

- Testing dead birds for the presence of West Nile virus
- Maintaining and testing four sentinel chicken flocks, with ten birds each, near key mosquito breeding areas for the presence of West Nile virus
- Trapping mosquitoes to determine population species and abundance
- Testing mosquito pools for the presence of West Nile virus

Vector Control staff are currently searching for abandoned swimming pools, ponds and water features that may become mosquito breeding sources. If you know of any neglected backyard water sources, please call County Vector Control at (888)-551-INFO. Residents are also urged to check their property for standing water sources including plant saucers, old tires, rain collection barrels, uncovered boats and children's toys.

To report dead birds, mosquito breeding areas or abandoned swimming pools, ponds and water features, please call County Vector Control at (888)-551-INFO or visit the County's West Nile virus Web site at [www.SDFightTheBite.com](http://www.SDFightTheBite.com).

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